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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: ESAB AB
Serial Number: 09/402185
Filed: 03/25/02
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING
Attorney Docket Number: 5746

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop DD
Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 26, 2003

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith information of which he is aware, which believes may be material to the patentability of any claim and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

The prior art references are set forth below and on the Form PTO-1449.
US Patent No. 5,240,167

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner give full consideration to the information disclosed herein, make it of record in this Application, and complete and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

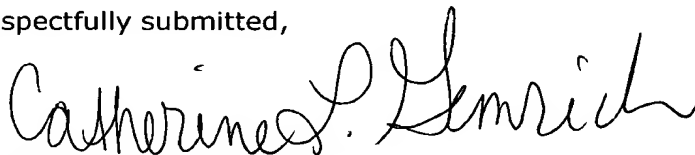
In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this information is submitted after the mailing of the first Official Action. The information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a foreign counterpart application on June 10, 2003.

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AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Authorization is hereby given to change any necessary fees in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 04-2219. Referencing our Docket Number 5746.

Respectfully submitted,



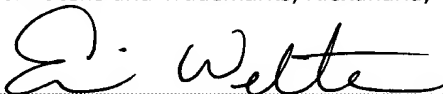
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1ST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 26, 2003.



Erin Weltler